GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2472
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2007
ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO ASI
Deora Shri Milind Murli

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) sent a proposal to Planning Commission asking for an additional fund apart from its annual allocation for development of protected monuments in connection with Commonwealth Games;

(b) if so, the Planning Commission has agreed to grant the additional fund;

(c) the details of funds utilized;

(d) whether the ASI is short − staffed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (c) In addition to the regular budget provided to the Archaeological Survey of India, an additional budget provision of Rs. 25.73 crores has been sought to undertake specific development activities at 46 centrally protected monuments in Delhi for completion prior to holding of Commonwealth Games. These activities include structural repair, chemical preservation, providing tourist amenities, environmental development and illumination of monuments. Planning Commission has advised to take up works for 2007-08 from the budget already provided and to place its demand before the Planning Commission for 2008-09 and 2009-10.

(d) & (e) Archaeological Survey of India maintains 3667 centrally protected monuments with the existing strength of 502 conservation staff under different cadres. Appropriate measures are taken to manage the sites by augmenting existing strength on the basis of actual requirement at each site / monuments and to ensure that work identified under Annual Programme does not suffer.